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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR.

22 May 1950

SUBJECT

Fine Wire Mesh Production

NO. OF PAGES

2

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. A meeting was held at the Tewa Plant in "eustadt/Oria (2 51/3 84) on 10 January 1950. The managers of all wire weaving plants involved in the production program were present. Representatives of the Soviet Control Commission were: Sobolev, Deputy of the General Kudenko, Chief Engineer Mrs. Sharniki, allegedly from the Berlin branch of the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry in Moscow, and two minor officials not known to source.
- a. The spokesman of the Soviets was Sobolev. He first announced that firms would receive no reparation orders during 1950. The new order would be given by the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry. On this occasion he introduced Chief Engineer Mrs. Sharniki.
- b. At the beginning of the meeting he declared that the Soviet Union would need 60,000 to 70,000 square meters of wire weavings in 1950. The representatives of the firms unanimously replied that it would be impossible to deliver such an amount considering the **stipulations made by the Soviets (i. e. warp thread shifts not exceeding 90 microns)**. The small firms would fall out almost completely because they do not have the machinery needed for this precision work. At best a monthly production totaling 700 square meters could be expected.
- c. Sobolev then asked the firms to make suggestions regarding the production increase and it was stated that more than 100 new looms would have to be **set up, new houses built and especially many skilled weavers**, hardly to be found, would have to be employed. The Terrant in Neustadt alone would need 400 additional workmen before it could reach the required annual output.
- d. Sobolev then suggested that instead of the improved weaving of 10,000 mesh a weaving of 7,000 mesh per square centimeter be manufactured and a stronger wire used (a wire with a diameter of 0.050 to 0.055 mm). The mesh width of this weaving would only be an insignificant change compared to the 10,000 mesh weaving and a larger **amount with only few defects** could be manufactured. The firms accepted this proposal but they did not consent to any commitments regarding the warp thread shifts as

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they did not have any previous experience in the manufacture of this weaving.

e. Finally, agreement was reached to continue, in 1950, the production of the improved nickel wire weaving of 10,000 mesh per square centimeter with shifts not exceeding 90 microns and possibly to convert production to weaving of 7,000 mesh per square centimeter made of stronger wire, depending on the decision from Moscow.

2. The firms were to make an immediate offer to the following address:

"Mr. Sobolev, chairman of the unit AFK 27 001."

a. It is to be noted that Sobolev is an official of the Reparation Administration. Although the firms allegedly will no longer have to make reparation deliveries it may nevertheless be assumed that everything has remained as it was before, i.e. production will still be delivered on reparation account.

b. It was learned from conversations with Sobolev, Pulinov and Dedodov that the manufacture of wire weavings is still listed as first priority.

c. A representative of the Ministry of Economy of the German Democratic Republic also visited the Texa Firm in Neustadt and pointed out that the manufacture of weavings would be of greatest importance for the Soviet Union and thus also for the East German republics. All agencies would be instructed to remove whatever obstacles appear.

d. The consumption of material and the current production are under strict control. Even within the plant the wire may be passed on from one department to another one only on receipt.

3. If only 10,000** mesh weavings are actually produced in 1950 they will be manufactured only by the Texa firm in Neustadt/Orla and the Bauer-schneider & Lenzner firm in Leutenroda (M 51/K 03) as smaller firms cannot meet the required tolerances. However, all firms so far reported can again be assigned to the 7,000 mesh weaving** production.
4. The 7,000 mesh weaving cannot be manufactured at present as the wire material was not supplied by the Hettstedt (M 52/D 61, nonferrous Metal Rolling Mill).

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